

[7 August, 2001]

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Retail outlets dealers and LPG distributors have relationship with their respective companies of principals and dealer/agent. The dealers/distributors can approach company officers at field/divisional/ regional/head office level for the redressal of their grievances. Oil marketing companies also organise forum/meets from time to time with their dealers/distributors and customers who get opportunity to raise their grievance which are looked into at an appropriate level and grievances are redressed as per the policy/guidelines.

Maintenance of Gas Pipelines

†1820. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gas is getting wasted for want of proper maintenance in the gas pipelines in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take some effective steps to check the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir. There is no waste of natural gas due to lack of maintenance of pipelines. The oil Public Sector Undertakings marketing natural gas through pipelines are maintaining them properly with predictive and preventive maintenance techniques.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Policy on private sector entry in retail market

1821. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private players are going to be allowed to enter marketing of petro products; if so, whether Government have formulated a clear policy for their entry and participation;

(b) whether any private players have fully fulfilled their obligations as per Government Policy so far; and if so, by when they would be entitled for their petro products marketing rights; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are expecting foreign companies also to take interest/participate in the oil sector indicating our offer, if any, for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Government of India announced a road map for dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in November, 1997. The aforesaid announcement *inter alia* provided for grant of marketing rights for transportation fuel viz. Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD) and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) conditional on owning and operating refineries with an investment of at least Rs. 2,000 crore or oil exploration and production companies producing atleast three million tonnes of curde oil annually. Full de-regulation of Petroleum Sector is targetted from 1st April, 2002.

In this regard, as per the detailed Marketing Guidelines to be notified, private players fulfilling the laid down conditions would be entitled to have the marketing rights for transportation fuels.

ONGC Videsh's overseas projects

1822. **SHRI B.J. PANDA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the stake acquired by ONGC Videsh in Russia's Sakhalin-I Oilfield in terms of percentage and absolute value and Vietnam CoH Shore Gas Project;

(b) the estimated oil and gas reserve in these fields and the recoverable reserve as a percentage of total reserve;

(c) by when the production will start as per the project schedule; and

(d) the details of other opportunity exploration of ONGC Videsh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): ONGC-Videsh Ltd. (OVL) signed an agreement with Rosneft, the national oil company of Russia on 10.2.2001 to acquire 20% participating interest from the Russian company in the Sakhalin-I offshore project in Russia. The total investment of OVL in the project is estimated to be of the order of US \$ 1.7 billion (Rs. 8,000 crores). In the Vietnam Natural Gas Project OVL has at present a stake of 45%. The share of OVL in development cost of the project works out to approx, USD 228 million (Rs 1,075 crores).